

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**of the NEBRASKA**  
**BOARD OF Emergency**  
**Medical Services**  
**Monday, May 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 0900, Monday, May 16, 2022, at the Hilton Garden Inn – Haymarket Downtown 801 'R' Street, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Dr. Smith announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

**ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Randy Boldt  | • Dion Neumiller   |
| • Karen Bowlin | • Carolyn Petersen |
| • Joel Cerny   | • Carl Rennerfeldt |
| • Ann Fiala    | • Michael Sheridan |
| • Todd Hovey   | • Dr. James Smith  |
| • Linda Jensen |                    |

The following Board members were absent: Mike Bailey, Dr. Thomas Deegan

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| • Tim Wilson      | • Carol Jorgensen  |
| • Wendy Snodgrass | • Theresa Hampton, <i>DHHS Legal (attended via Zoom)</i> |
| • Tonja Bohling   | • Lisa Anderson, <i>Assistant Attorney General</i>       |
| • Christy Duryea  |  |
| • Sharon Steele   |  |
| • Edith Titamoh   |  |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

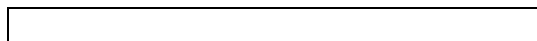
**MOTION:** Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Boldt, to adopt the agenda for the May 16, 2022 Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Bailey. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Fiala made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 Strategic Planning Session.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.



**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Jensen made the motion, seconded by Hovey, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

0904            *Meeting went into closed session.*  
 0946            *Smith left closed session.*  
 0958            *Smith returned.*  
 1017            *Fiala left closed session.*  
 1023            *Fiala returned.*  
 1038            *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

**OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, for the Board to go into open session.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.  
 Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.

The Board took a break at 1039 and returned at 1049.

**LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS****– EMT APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to approve Tyson Gallant for licensure based on the information received during the conviction review.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.  
 Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.

**– ADVANCED EMS TRAINING AGENCY APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Hovey, to recommend approving Iowa Western Community College as an advanced EMS Training agency.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.  
 Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: National EMS Week**

Dr. Smith thanked all EMS workers and staff at the OEHS during the National EMS Week this week 2022.

**AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems**

Wilson reported the program reports were combined and sent to the Board members prior to the meeting.

- a. Licensing – Tim Wilson reported on the Licensing Program and that the new Licensing Specialist, Christy Duryea, is learning and getting up to speed on the processes. Wilson also spoke about the LANCE System – it is still in testing stages and they are working on getting it programmed. EMS is scheduled for transition in August. More information will be sent out closer to the date. NSP fingerprints and documentation are waived until September 30, 2022.
- b. Carol Jorgensen, EMS Manager, reported on the EMS Program, initial and periodic inspections. Linda asked about telehealth, to which Wilson commented that it is in the planning stage on a trial basis with a Federal CDC Grant and Health Disparities.
- c. Wendy Snodgrass reported on the Education & Training Agency Compliance Program (see submitted report). Leadership training attendance is declining. Proposed dates are early December and February; there is not virtual option.
- d. Debbie Kuhn, EMSC and CISM Program Manager reported on the Emergency Medical Services for Children. She reminded everyone Wednesday is EMSC Day. Dr. Harrison wants to meet with the EMSC Committee. Kuhn applied additional grant funding. Smith reminded providers to please reach out for help through the CISM program if needed.
- e. Debbie Kuhn also reported on the Critical Incident Stress Management Program. CISM is swamped at 44 calls for intervention since January 1. Volunteers are being sought for the CISM 2-day training and application process. The question was posed if there are opportunities to do CISM virtually. Kuhn stated it is not ideal because of the practical piece of the training. The results of the survey did not make 83%.
- f. Wilson Reported that Sherri Wren was sick and had only one thing to add to the Trauma System Report that Sherri submitted. Title 185 was approved and goes into effect tomorrow.
- g. Becka Neumiller reported on the Stroke/STEMI Program. Wilson commented on one of the Stroke/STEMI projects. The AED Helmsley grant has a huge number of uses, giving out 150 more in 2022. Also this year, there will be ongoing training for AEDs.
- h. Sharon Steele reported on EMS Data.

The Board took a break at 1135 and returned at 1143.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update**

Dr. Ernest gave the Statewide Medical Director update. The protocols and scope of practice spreadsheet was submitted.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning Updates**

Wilson gave a brief update on the EMS Strategic Planning Session from April 11, 2022. The minutes of this meeting were approved earlier. The initiatives were not too broad coming out of the Strategic Planning Session. A preliminary strategy has been sent to Wilson. He will have it ready to share in the July meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Committee/ Rules and Regulation Revision Report**

Wilson submitted his report on Rules and Regulation Revisions in the handouts. Bowlin had questions regarding Chapter 13's change from 70% to 75%. Wilson advised this change was made because there were improvements in the last quarter.

Wilson highlighted the changes in Chapters 11, 12 and 13.

**MOTION:** Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, for the Board to approve and move forward with the changes to the rules and regulations.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.  
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: LB 1014 ARPA Funding Update**

Wilson reported on LB 1014, the ARPA Funding. Five million dollars was allocated for equipment across the state. Twenty million dollars was allocated for the replacement of ambulances. These will go through an internal review process the next thirty days after which the Legislation and Rules & Regulations Committee will work on protocols, procedures, etc.

Carl Rennerfeldt added that there is a 2026 end date for the spending of these allocations.

**AGENDA ITEM: Scope of Practice Committee Report**

Fiala submitted a report in the handouts on the Scope of Practice Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM: Education Committee Report**

Bowlin reported on Hospital Corpsmen Basic Education. It was noted that the military uses the National Registry, only the Navy does not use the National Registry. Wilson checked with nursing counterparts and with the information presented it does not meet the requirements of an EMT and does not qualify for LPN or RN. Bowlin does not recommend this licensure.

**MOTION:** Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Hovey, to not accept the recommendation of licensure.

Voting Yes: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.  
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bailey, Deegan. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: Medical Direction Report**

Dr. Smith gave an update on the Medical Directorship.

**AGENDA ITEM: Data Collection Report**

Bailey was absent. No report was given.

**AGENDA ITEM: Workforce Report**

Cerny reported that there was no additional information to report.

**AGENDA ITEM: Dispatch Report**

Neumiller submitted his report in the handouts. There were no additional updates.

**AGENDA ITEM: NSVFA Updates**

Cerny gave updates on NSVFA. Recruitment and leadership is a focus point. Another issue is the increase in suicide rates for first responders.

**AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)**

Sandy Wilson reported on NEMSA. The next meeting will be in July. She also reported on new members (Curtis Durmer and Pam Strong). NEMSA had a mini conference recently. The next mini conference will be in June in Sidney.

**AGENDA ITEM: Board Vacancies**

Wilson gave an update on Board vacancies. There has been no movement on them. It was proposed to amend the recommendations. The governor's office will hopefully get to boards this month and get board appointments completed before the end of the year.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment:**

John Bomar from Battle Creek Fire and Rescue spoke on behalf of NSVFA. There will be a meeting in June. He brought forward the question of "What is going to come of EMS in Nebraska?" He spoke about taking a survey of the population of communities in Nebraska and the possibility of combining Fire and EMS. He also brought up recruitment and retention ideas as well as trying to get EMRs to transport.

**CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Smith called end of meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling  
EHS Administrative Technician